rious effects and unjust operation,* and local societies are in course of organization to obtain its repeal,—in accordance with a suggestion first made in our own pages.†

In one shape or other, sanitary reform is every where the subject of investigation and comment. Mention of all is out of the question, but it would be unjust if we were not to refer with praise to the activity now being shewn by the City of London Commissioners of Sewers for the benefit of their fellow-citizens.‡ For more than this at the present moment we have not space, although our table is literally groaning under the pile of communications, reports of meetings, pamphlets, and books, bearing on the question.§ Nor is this excitement to be wondered at, the fact being now established beyond a doubt that the preventible waste of life and health in England, shown in money, exceeds in amount ten millions a year, and that it costs more money to *create* disease than to prevent it, there being no one structural arrangement, chargeable with the production of disease, which is not also in itself an extravagance. Results, however, are now wanted. Let not the satirist still be able to say—

> "Talk if you like about nuisance,
> 'Tis cheap to expend only breath;
> But leave rule and empire to muck and to mire,
> 'Till King Dirt yields the throne to King Death."

This is a question which belongs to all parties—to all men; and we trust that every effort will be made out of doors to aid Lord Morpeth in carrying his measure, and that the only contention within the House will be as to who shall do most to improve its details.

PROFESSOR COCKERELL'S LECTURES ON ARCHITECTURE.

The fifth lecture of this course was devoted to the subject of ornament, and included remarks upon symbolism, considered in reference to its use at the present day. The professor characterized symbolism as natural or conventional, and said that, though not intelligible to all, it was not entirely to be excluded from the resources of architecture. It prevailed first, and most remarkably, in Egypt, where its language was familiar only to an oligarchy. Mystery also characterized the Chinese and Hindoos, for, as were knowledge and light on the one hand, mystery and darkness were synonymous on the other. Symbolism had flourished and declined in the world in exact proportion to ignorance and knowledge. The reformed church had set small store on mystery and symbols.

The prevalence of symbolism could be excused amongst the early Christians, obliged to practise the rites of their religion in concealment in the catacombs, and with them we understood the expression of their belief in a manner intelligible only to themselves. Subsequently, the use of symbolism declined, but was revived by the Church of Rome, and lately it had again been revived by what was called "ecclesiology." Much conceit might be concealed under its restitution, and it might have little real value to the architect, but when we considered its revival originated with the Cambridge Camden Society, we were justified in deeming it a fashion, and as one that would pass away. Durandus, who wrote in 1280, and whose "Rationale" had passed through twenty-seven editions, was the writer who gave the most complete information respecting the symbolism of the middle ages, and his work had great interest; but to invest it with the authority sought to be given, was to substitute the picture for the reality, and to be beset by a multitude of rules and directions, in the place of having mind and character, in our buildings. To ascribe symbolic meaning to every minute part of the building, was the opposite of the Calvinistic doctrine, which erred as much on the other side, and according to which the church should be a barn. By way of argument in favour of symbolism, the editors of the recent translation of Durandus had quoted from an old canticle, in which the different parts of a building were personified as the cardinal virtues, shewing that the medieval writers were deeply imbued with such ideas. Now, in this canticle, the practical architect finds nothing whatever applicable to his purpose.

But Durandus might, nevertheless, aid us in inquiring into the reasons for many features of Gothic architecture. When we design a large door to a Gothic church, we merely hash up the principles which we have derived from classical architecture. We know that in Grecian architecture, the door was made a main feature, because intended to contrast with the doors of habitations. But in Gothic architecture, the door was to symbolise the inferiority of him who entered through it. In Byzantine architecture, the monsters found crouching at the portals were held to symbolise the dangers which the soul had to pass through. But, further, the door was important in an artistic sense, because it was, like the human figure, the scale or *modicus* of dimension for the whole building. The Gothic architect makes the door small, and the remainder of the building thereby becomes large. Here, then, Durandus helped us, and there could be no doubt that this was a material element, and a chief rule in Gothic architecture. The error into which we fell had been like that of the architects of "the revival," who had restored the door of Vitruvius, in accordance with the notions with which they were imbued, from observing the small doorways of medieval buildings.

Having thus considered the subject of doors, we might turn to windows. The window in classical architecture was to the building what the door was in Gothic architecture, *videlicet*, the modicus of dimension. The window, therefore, was small, whilst in Gothic architecture, it was large. Sir Christopher Wren always used large windows; but Hawksmoor and Gibbs returned to the use of smaller apertures; as might be seen in St. Martin's Church, the work of the latter, the windows defeat the object of the Christian temple.

The professor then noticed the advantage of employing colour in windows, but strongly condemned the practice of imitating the faults of original design, and the effects of time upon glass. He characterised the windows of the thirteenth century as "patchwork," and likened them to the works of industrious glaziers, which the parsimony of those who have had the care of our cathedrals, had allowed to be united in one window from the fragments of several. The advantages of glass-painting far exceeded every other description of painting, and he expressed a hope that it might be carried out in the new Houses of Parliament, in such a manner as to develope all its resources, conjoined with good art. For instance, how much would the effect of St. Paul's Cathedral be improved by painted glass? All that coldness which was now complained of, with reason, would disappear. At York, the aisle windows were chiefly of early date, and had no more design than dirty patchwork, or the figures of the kaleidescope, but nevertheless the effect was very beautiful; so that at York, on Sundays, crowds of people assembled in the nave admiring these beautiful windows; and how much more beautiful were the works in stained glass on the continent?

The professor also alluded to the system of Gothic masonry as connected with the effect of the medieval buildings, the beauty of which, in great part, resided in the method of building with small stones. Indeed, so important were the markings of the stones, in the design, that it was a common practice to redden them, or treat them somewhat in the manner of tuck-pointing, and these markings no doubt gave a scale for the building. Towards the close of the style, however, the practice became modified, until, in Henry the Seventh's Chapel, the masonry seemed to have outgrown the details.—Ornament had thus its value in more than its obvious effect in architecture. A scale was given to the design by judicious ornament.

Sculpture was the voice of architecture, and its outlines contrasted with the severe lines of a building. The word *zophorus*, a frieze, had been taken to be derived from words signifying *life* and *stillness*. Between the sculpture of the classical school and that of Gothic architecture, the professor shewed that there was an essential difference in the *moral* and effect sought to be conveyed to the beholder, and that Michaelangelo had failed to impart that character to his sculpture which was consistent with the purpose of a Christian church. Titian and even Raphael had also departed from the true principle. The buildings of the middle ages were sometimes to be considered quite as much works of sculpture as of architecture, and if we put up niches without the figures which they were intended to contain, we might, with as much propriety, hang up frames without pictures. The introduction of heraldic bearings was a departure from the good system which had prevailed at a previous date,—it was a tribute offered to the vanity of those who gave donations, and was like saying "Subscribers' names shall be printed." He then noticed the sculpture at Norwich, and Henry the Seventh's Chapel, and afterwards mentioned St. Paul's Cathedral as an example of the use of sculpture under an altered state of architecture, which was of the highest interest. The parish churches by Wren, and those built

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* In a lecture on the subject last week at the Western Literary Institution, Lord Duncan in the chair, the lecturer, Mr. Malcolm, thus sketched the birth and parentage of the window taxes. They were born in the year 1696, in the reign of William III., and owed their existence to an excessive clipping of the coin of the realm. The general clipping of the coin having necessitated its recoinage, a great reduction of the revenue followed. That tax was essentially upon householders, and was to have existed only for seven years, but, strange as it might appear, those seven years had not yet expired. In the reign of Queen Anne the tax was made perpetual. During the reign of George II. the vigilance of the officers who collected the tax gave rise to a further enactment, that every kitchen, scullery, buttery, laundry, brewhouse, &c., belonging to any dwelling-house, should be taken as part of such dwelling-house, and charged accordingly. The matter was thus authoritatively settled, when in 1759 it became necessary to raise supplies to prosecute the war, and therefore every dwelling-house was made to pay an additional 1s. In the year 1762 another addition was made. In 1778 a separate duty was imposed upon houses alone. The rental of houses was the mode by which they were rated, and consequently they now had a house tax and a window tax. He believed it took this oppressive shape to prevent smuggling in tea. The duty was taken off that article and laid upon windows. He need not run through the diminution made since the time of Mr. Pitt, but in the year 1834 a great opportunity had been lost of getting entirely rid of the tax, when Lord Althorp's Bill passed through Parliament. If the people of this country were told that a tax had been laid upon light in some distant part of the world, they would certainly go and write very sapient treatises on the barbarity of such a thing. They would consider there was something wrong in the mental faculties of such a race, and yet in our own most civilised country the barbarity was allowed to exist.

"At a public meeting held in Reading last week to petition for the repeal of the tax, Mr. W. Brown, an architect, made a very able address on the subject, to which we shall look on another occasion.

† The memorial against it, presented by the parish of Marylebone, contains the following amongst the grounds of objection to it:

"First—Its pestilential effect on the health and morals of the community by depriving their dwellings of the common blessing of light and air, and nullifying all attempts at social or sanitary improvement.

Second—Its extreme severity upon the productive classes, no other tax falling with so heavy and so direct a pressure. Its prohibition of labour and skill in the mechanical and architectural arts, and by taxing glazed and unglazed openings it not only prevents the admission of light and air, but precludes the use and consumption of cheap glass, now available for these purposes.

Third—Its gross inequality. The dwellings of small tradesmen and the poorer classes being, in many instances, taxed with a per centage on their rental eight or ten times greater than the mansions of their wealthy neighbours."

‡ The following are the most important heads of their new Sanitary Bill now before Parliament:—

"The commissioners are empowered to make sewers, to deepen and alter them as needful, to enforce, control, and inquire into private drainage, and, if necessary, to execute the work themselves.

Water companies are to supply water for all sanitary purposes, of flushing and cleansing sewers or surface pavements in courts and alleys, whenever required by the commissioners, and are to be paid for the same as may be agreed upon; and, in case of disagreement, two justices are to decide on the remuneration.

Houses to be built hereafter are to be supplied with drains, and built to such levels as may be decided by the commissioners.

The owners of all houses within fifty feet of a public sewer are to be compelled to drain such houses into the public sewer.

All gullies are to be trapped.

The powers now existing to inspect private cesspools, and other nuisances, under the temporary Act of 9 & 10 Vict., c. 96, (which expires this session), are given to the commissioners, who are to enforce the abatement of all such nuisances, upon medical certificate.

The commissioners are to appoint a medical officer of health, and an inspector of nuisances, who are to investigate all cases of a nature requiring the interference of the commissioners for sanitary purposes.

The commissioners are authorised to provide a place for the reception of dead bodies of the poor prior to interment, and the bodies to be received there under certificate of the medical officer of health.

The commissioners are to enforce the providing of cisterns in houses.

No interment in a grave to be permitted unless *five feet of earth* be left over the coffin.

Furnaces to be compelled, under regulations, to consume their own smoke.

No increase of the power of rating, as it now exists, is proposed to be vested in the commissioners."

§ The Metropolitan Sanitary Commission have issued their second Report, to which we shall look in due time.

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